

REMARKS

Applicants request the Examiner to reconsider and allow this application in view of claim amendments and the following remarks.

Responsive to the restriction requirement, applicants affirm the election of Group I, that is claims 1, 2 and 5-22 directed to color encoding, classified in class 345, subclass 592. Applicants are concurrently filing a divisional application to prosecute the unelected claims.

Applicants have amended their independent claims 1, 5, 14 and 18 to more particularly point out their invention. Specifically, applicants have cancelled withdrawn claims 3, 4 and 23 without prejudice to applicants right to file a divisional application (which is being done concurrently herewith). Claims 1, 2 and 5-20 have been amended to more particularly point out that the alternative formats (with and without high precision alpha information) each set forth RGB color information. This feature is not taught in the applied references.

MacInnis teaches an RGB format and alternative color lookup table (CLUT) formats. The CLUT formats do not set forth RGB information -- they merely index them in a color lookup table. See col. 6, lines 56 *et seq.* In contrast, the present claimed invention avoids the need for a color lookup table by setting forth the RGB information directly within the format but at different bit precisions depending on whether higher

precision alpha transparency information is being used. Fowler does not supply the missing teaching.

Independent claim 21 requires *inter alia* "a predetermined number of equal sized steps to form said second resolution semi-transparency information." See e.g., specification at page 17 line 20 and following. The cited portions of MacInnis do not appear to teach equal sized steps.

All outstanding issues have been addressed and this application is in condition for allowance. Should any minor issues remain outstanding, the Examiner should contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below so they can be resolved expeditiously without need of a further written action.

Respectfully submitted,

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